

L. M. GRIST'S SONS, Publishers.

ESTABLISHED 1855

GREAT IS THE "Y"

Work of the Organization of Inestimable Value.

ALWAYS ON ITS JOB OF HELPING.

Promotes Entertainment for the Soldiers—Lives Workers Always in Pleasing—Humor—Men Who Are Making Real Sacrifices for Service—Will Have Place in War's History.

Correspondence The Y. M. C. A. Bulletin.

Camp Sevier, June 21.—For several months after I was enlisted in the military service I kept away as much as possible (which was almost all the time) from the Y. M. C. A. halls, "Y's" as they are called, that are a part of the life and being of each regiment at Camp Sevier. Somehow I was prejudiced against the "Y's" and "Y" workers, whom I regarded as men who had simply gone into that work in order to dodge military service, which I have learned, nearly so hard and strenuous as the work in which they are engaged. My conception of, and attitude toward the "Y's" and the fine men who compose their corps of workers, however, has been materially changed since that time; because I have had longer time to study the work and workers, and I have come to the conclusion that those workers are as good soldiers as any of us and better soldiers than many of us—myself included in the last named class.

There are probably a hundred or more Y. M. C. A. workers at Camp Sevier, and from the job-Sundays included. They provide various forms of entertainment for the soldiers in camp—moving pictures, amateur theatricals organized by them among enlisted men, deliver lectures on various subjects, issue stationery to soldiers who desire the same, talk about God to those who will listen and don't get mad at the fellow who won't. They write letters for those among the soldiers who know not how to write; wrap up packages of military supplies and other things for those soldiers and other things for those soldiers who cheer up those who are sick and lonely; give advice to those who solicit the same. In short, they do everything to make soldiering pleasant and they do it in the easiest, neatest way imaginable.

Comes a soldier into the "Y" of the 32nd Infantry. He hasn't had a letter from the wife in several days perhaps, and he's blue and lonely. Or maybe he's hot and tired and disgusted with "squads casting" or some other military duty that is not just exactly according to his liking.

"Let me see the latest edition of 'Life' he says to a gruff old-out-of-sorts kind of fellow.

"I am very sorry, lad; but for some reason or other we didn't get 'Life' this week," replies the man behind the desk at the "Y" in a pleasant voice.

"Humph, that's the dickens of a note. Say, what do you fellows ever do or have around here, anyhow?"

"I am sorry about the magazine, lad, replies the "Y" man in the same good humored way. "Here's the Saturday Evening Post or Metropolitan or Leisurely they will do and I am sure we will have Life tomorrow."

The soldier out-of-sorts looks at him funny like and wonders how he can maintain such composure and cheerfulness all the time. At the same time he is ashamed of himself.

"Thus it goes. They can't do enough for the soldiers. They are ever striving to please them."

Most of the "Y" workers at this camp are men who are over the draft age who have gone into that work because it is a service in which they are able to serve best by reason of their peculiar training along that line. Many workers in the draft age have left the "Y" service in order to enlist in the National army and many others have been drafted.

They merely wanted to serve in some way until their arm came for induction into the army proper.

Many of these men are those who would never be called into the military service, no matter how long the war might last, because of physical unfitness or some kindred reason.

It was only a few days ago that I ran across a weakened, dried-up, hardly bigger than a minute, thin and skiny, four feet eleven inches of Y. M. C. A. Central "Y" in St. Louis, his arms were hardly half as big as mine, and I'm not sure of size myself, while one of my legs would have pretty nearly served him as a summer shirt.

He had a big and cheery smile and something about him seemed to give the impression that he was a great big little fellow. I engaged him in conversation about something or other, I don't remember what, and then he invited me into his office to talk some more, and soon we were chummy. Finally he told me, to his himself, because I asked him to. He doesn't know that I am using him in this article and if he did he would turn red all over.

"Well," he said, in telling about himself. "You see I am not strong on size and my health isn't as good as it might be; but I believe I can be of assistance in this way, at least a little bit to the boys who are going to blif Bill, so here I am in 'Y' work."

"Up until a few months ago I was conducting an advertising agency in Palm Beach, Fla. I was making a pretty fair living—about \$3,000 a year, I guess. The fellows around my place kept going to war and I kept trying to get in somehow and couldn't until I got pretty much discouraged."

"Finally an acquaintance of mine advised me to go into Y. M. C. A. work. I told my wife how I felt about it all—that I wanted to have a place in the show somehow or other and that it was both her duty and mine to try to have that place."

"Here I am. We 'Y' men don't get any salary, you know, only expenses. I am drawing about \$15 a month from the 'Y' for expenses and am filling out the rest of the high cost of living bill with personal funds. I am delighted with the work; but I confess I would much rather be in the army proper if there was a chance for me. There isn't, so what's the use to worry?"

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Tom Mooney was a molder by trade and a member of the molder's union. For many years he had been one of the most widely known labor leaders on the Pacific coast. Mrs. Mooney was a music teacher; Billings a youth of radical tendencies and a follower of Mooney in labor agitation; Nolan also was a friend of Mooney and a radical labor leader of lesser prominence. Weinberg was a jitney driver, hired at times to convey Mooney and his assistants to labor meetings. He was accused of driving the automobile that was said to have carried Mooney and the others to the spot where the bomb was "planted."

Billings first was tried, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. He still protests his innocence. Mrs. Mooney and Weinberg have been tried and acquitted. Nolan has never been put to trial. Tom Mooney was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to be hanged.

Mooney insists that he had no hand in the murdering of those innocent persons on that July day. He swears that he did not "plant" the bomb, and that he knew nothing whatsoever about it until after the explosion had buried those men, women and children into eternity.

Mooney and thousands of labor organization leaders insist that he is being "railroaded" to the gallows because he was a labor leader of pronounced radicalism. They assert that his life is sought because of his fierce antagonism to the "open shop" program of San Francisco big business. They insist that he is innocent of the "preparation" bomb outrage. This belief is not confined to persons living in San Francisco, nor yet in California alone. It is held by hundreds of thousands of labor men in all parts of the United States and in other countries.

That Mooney was not honestly convicted and therefore should have a new trial is the announced belief of the U. S. mediation commission, of which Secretary of Labor W. B. Wilson is chairman.

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On the other hand, Thorwald Mullaly, a labor leader (San Francisco) and who was grand marshal of the parade that day, insists that Mooney is guilty beyond question of doubt. Labor leaders, though, say that Mullaly is an arch-enemy of union labor.

San Francisco's chamber of commerce believes Mooney guilty, and is opposed to giving him a new trial. A month or so before Mooney's arrest, the chamber declared its intention to issue a war geography bulletin issued from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society, as follows:

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SHALL MOONEY DIE?

Facts in the Case of San Francisco Labor Leader.

Sentence again has been passed upon Thomas J. Mooney, convicted of murder in connection with a bomb explosion in San Francisco on July 26, 1916, while a "preparation" parade was being held. Six people were instantly killed and about 100 were wounded, of whom four subsequently died. Arrests were made of Thomas J. Mooney and his wife, Tena Mooney, Warren K. Billings, Israel Weinberg, and Edward D. Nolan.

Tom Mooney was a molder by trade and a member of the molder's union. For many years he had been one of the most widely known labor leaders on the Pacific coast. Mrs. Mooney was a music teacher; Billings a youth of radical tendencies and a follower of Mooney in labor agitation; Nolan also was a friend of Mooney and a radical labor leader of lesser prominence. Weinberg was a jitney driver, hired at times